



**U.S. Department of Justice**

*United States Attorney  
District of New Hampshire*

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**MEDIA RELEASE**  
**For Immediate Release**  
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**PAID TAX PREPARER CHARGED WITH AIDING  
THE PREPARATION OF FALSE TAX RETURNS**

**CONCORD, NEW HAMPSHIRE** -- United States Attorney Tom Colantuono and Cathy Smith, the Supervisory Special Agent of the New Hampshire Division of the Internal Revenue Service, Criminal Investigation Division, announced that a federal grand jury in Concord, New Hampshire has charged Cornelius Owens, a part-time resident of Plaistow, New Hampshire, with Aiding the Preparation of False Tax Returns, and Using a False Social Security Number, in violation of federal law.

The Indictment, which was filed in United States District Court earlier today, alleges that Owens, age 70, prepared 40 fraudulent tax returns or amended tax returns for 16 different taxpayers (or joint taxpayers) from January 1999 to December 2002. The Indictment also alleges that each of the returns falsely reduced the tax liability of the taxpayers for whom they were prepared by reporting fictitious or inflated tax deductions to the IRS.

The Indictment also charges that, during the same time period, Owens falsely represented to the IRS that a particular social security account had been assigned to him by the Commissioner of Social Security.

Owens could be sentenced to a prison term of up to 3 years and be fined up to \$100,000.00 if he is convicted of aiding the preparation of a false tax return. He could also receive a prison term of up to 5 years and be fined up to \$250,000.00 if he is convicted of using a false social security number.

An indictment merely alleges that a crime has been committed and that all defendants are presumed innocent until proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt.

